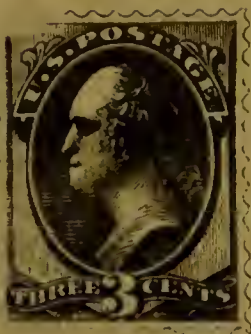


MASON'S
MONTHLY
COIN AND STAMP
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5.

APRIL, 1871.

No. 4.

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BY MASON & CO.,

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Bavis & Pennypacker. Prs., 23 S. Tenth St.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Miscellaneous Coins and Medals, for Sale, April 1, 1871.

Obv., a figure, representing Hope, presenting two children (typical of Peace and Plenty) to Goddess of Liberty, "British settlement of Kentucky, 1796;" rev., "Copper Company of Upper Canada, One Half Penny;" beautiful bronze proof; extremely rare. . .		\$40 00
Washington Cent; large eagle; good,		5 00
U. S. Cent, 1799; fair condition. date plain,		6 00
U. S. Cent, 1799; very poor,		2 00
U. S. Cent, 1793; good,		3 50
U. S. Cent, 1793; fair,		2 00
U. S. Cent, 1793; poor,		1 50
U. S. Half Cent, 1793; fine,		5 00
Louisiana Penny, without the countermark R. F., rare; good. . .		2 50
U. S. Silver Dollar, 1795; fillet head; fine,		3 50
U. S. Silver Dollar, 1795; flowing hair; good,		2 00
U. S. Dollars, 1796 and 1797; good; each,		2 00
U. S. Half Dollar, 1795; good,		1 00
U. S. Cent, 1804; fair; date plain,		2 50
Georgius Triumpho, 1783; fine,		5 00
Vermont Cent, 1786; baby head; good,		1 50
French Medals; bronze; proofs; 50 different issues; size 24; each, .		75
Grant Medal; white metal; believed to be <i>unique</i> ; similar in size to the U. S. Mint Twelve Dollar Medal; beautiful proof, . . .		20 00
Madison Medal; "Industry brings plenty;" white metal; nearly half an inch thick; slightly injured; size 40,		3 00
General Naglee Medal; for Fair Oaks; bronze; proof; extremely rare; issued only to a few subscribers, and suppressed; size 36, .		15 00
Washington Allston Medal, 1847; bronze; proof; rare; size 40, . .		3 00
Governor Isaacs Shelby Medal; battle of the Thames; bronze; proof; size 40,		1 25
Commodore Stewart Medal; Levant and Cyane; bronze; proof; size 40,		1 25
Grant Medal; rev., "Inaugurated," etc.; white metal; proof; size 32,		75
Washington Sanson Medal; "Presidency relinquished;" white metal; proof; size 32,		1 00
Tyler Medal; clasped hands. bronze; proof; size 40,		1 25
Gilbert Stuart Medal, 1848; bronze; proof; rare; size 40,		3 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

United States Postage and Fractional Currency.

Shield, containing full set of all the different issues,	\$6 00
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MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Postage Stamp Albums, &c.

Scott's American Album, oblong, cloth,	\$2 50
Lallier's French Album, oblong, cloth,	5 00
Lallier's French Album, oblong, gilt,	6 00
Scott's Album for beginners, including Catalogue of Prices,	50
Albums for \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, \$10 and 50	00
Mason & Co.'s Priced Stamp Catalogue,	25

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Rare Coins.

1841 ; Half Cent ; brilliant proof,	\$10 00
1847 ; Half Cent ; brilliant proof,	25 00
1793 ; Cent : without date,	50
1793 ; Cent ; showing date,	1 50
1793 ; Cent ; good,	3 50
1799 ; Cent ; very fair,	6 00
1804 ; Cent ; very poor,	1 50
1804 ; Cent ; very fair,	3 00
1804 ; Cent ; good,	5 00
Roman Silver Coins,	50
Roman Copper Coins,	15

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

United States Proof Sets.

1859 to 1869 ; complete ; each,	\$6 00
1870,	5 00
1871,	4 50

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Aluminum Set of United States Coins.

We have a full Set of Aluminum Coins of 1868—16 Pieces—from \$20 to \$1 Gold Pieces ; \$1 to 3c. Silver Pieces ; 5c. to 1c. Nickel and Bronze Pieces. Price, \$100 for the set. Beautiful proofs in a twelve dollar glass and morocco case.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

American Rebellion Tokens and Store Cards.

(ISSUED DURING THE CIVIL WAR.)

100 Tokens ; different issues,	\$2 00
100 Cards ; different issues,	2 00

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NOVEL PETITION.

The following document, endorsed "Petition of 8 Scoundrels to the Hon. Provincial Congress," is an interesting revolutionary paper in the liberal acceptation of the term. It is written on two pages foolscap and endorsed by Provincial Congress, May 24, 1775, when a committee was appointed by Congress to investigate the matter.

To the Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, sitting in Congress at Wattertown. [This with care.

Gentlemen Representatives of this province :

Know dout, it is a truth acknowledged among men that god his placd men in greater and lower stations in life, and that Inferiours are moraly Bound to obay their Superiors in all their lawful commands. But, altho our king is our Superior yet his commands are unlawful. Therefore, we are not bound to obay but are in providence cald to rise up against such tiranical usurpations, and our province at this dificult Day is Necessited to chuse Representatives and officers to Rule as king over us, To which we cheerfully submit in all things, lawful or just and count it our happiness ; but if their laws are greavious to bare, then the agreaved is by the same rule authorized to rise up in opposition to said laws, and there his been some acts made for the regulation of the armey and his been so short lifd, and new acts in stead thereof that it his constraind many to with draw ; others, viz.: Companies and Ragiments Appearently broke or throne into confusion and by those that remain Here are much Duty Required, to which we, animated from a spirit of Liberty, would chearfully submit provided we had sufficient support from day to day. We many times have drawn such roten stinkin meat that the smell is sufficient to make us lothe the same, and provided the provision would be good. A pound of meat and a pound of bread, with what small quantity of sase we at some times draw, is fare from being sufficient food for a Labouring man during 24 hours, the truth of which we have experienced to our cost as necessity his constraind us to buy from day to day until our money fails ; and is not this a means of driving away men that other wise would stay and keeping away men that other wise would come. Pray let not our case be parilel to the case of the Isarelites when in bondege to the Egyptianes, who required the tale of breek but gave no straw. If you require the tale of work or deauty from us give us wharewith all to live upon. Their is a large Nombor of men in various Ragements that resents their treatment with regard to provision so fare that they have sworn by the god that made them that if the cannot have a sufficient support they will Either raise a mob and go to the general and Demand provision and obtain it that way, or they will swing their packs Emediately and go home boldly throu all the guards. If the reality of the above is scrupled, surely the truth may be

known by the colonel's applying to the solders, and, if we should be constrained to take any of the above Extremes, dos it not look like great confusion, yea, a fore runner of our fall and we become a pray to devouring unnatural cruel enemies of our liberties and religion, and now we would humbly request the congress as they regard the welfare of the provence, our lives and liberties and the religion we profess, that they would remove out of the way at least this one difficultrie, which otherwise his the appearance of making an emediate contention or rebellion in the camp. We not only write in our names but in the name and behalf of many whome we represent and that the congress may have wisdom from a bove to act in such a difficult day is the sincere desire of them who as yet remains yours to save.

Roxbury, may ye 23, 1775.

ELIPHELET BARNS,
TIMOTHY TITUS,
STEPHEN WILLES,
JAMES WILLARD,
WILAM BENNETT,
ISAAC PITS,
JONAH FULER,
JOHN ARMSTRONG.

In Provin. Congress, May 24, 1775,

Ordered, That Maj. Brooks, Coll. Thompson and Coll. Witchel be a committee to take this Petition into their consideration—that they enquire into the cause of the complaint therein set forth and make a Report as soon as may be.

SAM. FREEMAN, SECR'Y P. C.

In Provincial Congress, Watertoun, May 25, 1775,

Ordered, That the withun Petition be sent to General Thomas, and that he be and hereby is directed to enquire into the causes of the complaint therein contained, and take proper measures for the Redress of the Petitioners.

SAM. FREEMAN, SECR'Y P. C.

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS RELATING TO THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR—1775-6.

We have in our possession and for sale the following interesting original letters, written and signed by the authors—quarto size, one page.

MONTREAL, May 8, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL—Inclosed is a letter, just came to hand, from Gen. Schuyler. You will excuse the liberty I have taken to open it, as I imagined it contained intelligence absolutely necessary for me to know. I beg leave to congratulate you on the prospect of reinforcements ariving soon. I shall forward you all the tents & other articles here which you may have occation for. I shall follow in a day or two. Hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you. I have thought proper to send by this post as the intelligence contained in the letter may posably alter your plan of operation. The General goes from Chamble, to-morrow, & a vessell will be sent of in the morning. No flour below. I am, with great respect, D'r General, your obe'd. h'ble s

B. ARNOLD.

Major Gen. Thomas.

CAMBRIDGE, May 14, 1775.

GENERAL THOMAS—Please to send by the Bearer all the Letters and Papers belonging to the late Gov. Hutchinson and enquire if one Dr. Jennings, now in your camp, brought any other yesterday from Milton.

I am, repectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOS. WARREN.

HEAD QUARTERS, 2 o'clock, 11th July, 1775.

SIR—The General is extremely pleased with the Vigilance of the officers at your Post, and is much obliged to you for your speedy conveyance of all intelligence of the motions of the Enemy. What further discoveries you can make of this late motion of their Ships, you will, as early as possible, communicate to The Commander in Chief, with any information you may think necessary to forward. The General believes you will think with him that Firing at Single Centinels of Enemy can (besides it being in General an exploded custom) answer no good End, & may possibly prevent Desertion; that being your Sentiment, The General wishes you to order that, for the Future, there be no Firing upon single Centinels. With great Esteem, I am, Sir, your most obedient Humble Servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To Major General Thomas.

TRENTON, March ye 10th, 1776.

D'R GENERAL—Major Dunbar, now a Prisoner of War in this place, is one of the oldest, most intimate and dearest friends I have in the world. We were bred up in the same Regiment; in short, I consider his interest as mine. He has a wife and children at Montreal, whom I must recommend most warmly to your protection—indeed, I must insist that you will consider and treat this Lady and her Children exactly as, I flatter myself, you would if they stood in the same relation to me as they do to my friend. Adieu, D'r General, I wish you health, success and glory, and am, most sincerely, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

To Major General Thomas.

HEAD QUARTERS, CAMBRIDGE, July 2, '75.

SIR—I am repeatedly hearing Heavy Cannon, which seem to be in your Quarter, & it is supposed that your Bell has been Ringing. If any Thing extraordinary, please to inform me.

I am, sir, most humble serv't,

ARTEMAS WARD.

To the Hon. Gen. Thomas, in Roxbury.

SIR—The kind civilities I received from you at Cambridge merit my most sincere acknowledgements, and I assure you, sir, that I retain the most grateful sense for the same. I take this early opportunity to inform you that the Honorable Congress have been pleased to honour me with the rank of a Brigadier general, and what renders this appointment more agreeable to me is the pleasure I shall have to serve under your command in Canada. I shall set out in two days for New York, and from thence to Canada with the Delegates. I beg you will be pleased to continue me the honour of your favor & Esteem.

I am, with the greatest consideration, sir,

Your mo: obed't humbl' serv't.

PHILADA.. March 23, 1776.

BARON DE WOEDTKE.

To the Honourable John Thomas, Esq.

HEAD QUARTERS, CAMBRIDGE, July 9, 1775.

SIR—His excell'y, the General, requests your attendance at Head Quarters precisely at 12 o'clock to-day, to hold a Council of War.

I am, sir, your most h'ble serv't,

JOS. REED, Scout.

Hon Gen. Thomas.

RHODE ISLAND CAMP, 21 June, 1775.

Captain Thayer and Lieutenant Black will wait on you to get a pass to go down and reconnoiter the ground the Regulars posts their centry on; they are the Persons, that wanted to go and sieze the centry, that I mentioned to you yesterday. They purpose, if they think it practicable, to make the attempt to-night. If agreeable you'l please to furnish them with a pass for the purpose afore said. I am, sir, with great defference, your honor's most obedient humble servant,

NATHANAEL GREENE.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, December 9th, 1775.

SIR—I am directed by The Hon. The Council to request your Honor to order the Prisoner herewith, George Price, to be safely kept, and, as soon as is convenient to your Honor, send him to Plymouth Goal, with the inclosed mittimus, where the Council have seen fit to order him confined till further order.

I am your Honor's most obed't & very humble serv't.

PEREZ MORTON, Dpy. Secry.

His Honor Gen'l Thomas.

Sacredly devoted to the cause in which General Thomas is honorably & gloriously active, yet, personal stranger as I am, I should not have taken the present Freedom without the express direction of Capt. Trumbull. New England's God will most assuredly give an after opportunity of an oral acknowledgment of the General's kind condescension this Day to his

most obed't humb. serv't

May 2d, '75.

JAMES LOVELL.

UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF ROBERT TREAT PAINE.

The following letter, written and signed by R. T. Paine, signer of the Declaration of Independence, in fine condition, quarto page. for sale. Address this office.

PHILADA., July 6, 1775.

To John Thomas, Esq., Major General of the American Troops near Boston, p. Collins.

DEAR GEN.—Mr. Stephen Collins, the Bearer hereof, a worthy citizen here & a friend of mankind, being about to visit your camp dererves some credentials of his great merit—his great kindness to our country men & Zeal in the common cause recomend him to notice. Mr. John Haighn, a respectable citizen here & promoter of military skill among the Quakers, travels with him.

I hope y. welfare & success & a full reward for y. military labours. I am, with great regard & affection, y. friend & humble serv.,

R. T. PAINE.

THE BRITISH MINT.

The British gold coin called a sovereign, of the value of twenty shillings sterling, with a standard weight of 123.374 grains troy, replaced the guinea, in 1817, but was not a new coin. Its name was first given to a gold piece issued in the time of Henry VIII, on which the king was represented, on the *obverse*, in his royal robes. In the reign of George IV, the *reverse* of this piece of money exhibited a spirited St. George and the dragon, designed and cut by Signor Pistrucci, a very able medalist, who was then connected with

the Mint in London. After a lapse of nearly half a century, it was lately determined that, instead of the arms of Great Britain and Ireland, the St. George should be reproduced on the reverse of the sovereign.

This has been done, but the result, judging from the newspaper criticisms, is very far from successful. The St. George is very badly cut, the war horse is out of proportion, and the gold has a pale and sickly look, as if had been touched with quicksilver. The fact is, it has been alloyed, not with copper, which preserves the color of the gold, but with silver, which makes it pale. Formerly, the coinage at the Mint on Tower Hill, London, was performed, by contract, by a company of experts known as "The Moneyers." From 1855 until his recent death, Professor Graham, one of the most eminent chemists of the day was Master of the Mint (having succeeded Sir John Herschell, one of the ablest men of science of modern time), and for the last fifteen years the British coinage has been very good. On his death it was resolved to have no Master of the Mint (that means to have no responsible man over the coinage), to dispense with the Moneyers, and to have the office which Herschell and Graham had filled so well merged into the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, a political appointment always vacated on a change of ministry. Mr. Lowe, who holds the office at present, knows as much of making coins as he does of carving colossal statues out of cherry stones. Hence his failure with the St. George sovereigns.

There is a lesson in this failure, if people will only learn it. To transfer the making of coin from experienced to inexperienced hands, from the Mint to the Treasury, has been a great mistake in England, and would be a great mistake here. Our coinage is absolutely perfect in its kind, it contains the legal quantity of metal of a certain value in each cast, the dies from which it is worked are delicately cut, and the impressions are sharp and clear. Let us hope that legislation, which meddles with so many things, without mending all of them, will leave our Mint severely alone.

LIST OF TYPES MOST COMMONLY FOUND ON GREEK AUTONOMOUS COINS.

COMPILED BY E. M., M. D.

SICILIA.

Zancle.—A dolphin, or a sickle.

Messana.—A rabbit.

Mamertini.—A warrior with lance and buckler.

Tauromenium.—A bull butting.

Syracuse.—Head of Proserpine.

Camarina.—Leda. A lizard, etc.

Catana.—A bull. A fish. A prawn.

Gelas.—A bull with a human head.

Agrigentum.—A crab.

Himera.—A cock.

Leontini.—A female holding two ears of corn.

Panormus.—A horse. A horse's head.

Selinus.—A leaf of wild parsley.

Segesta.—A dog.

ITALIA.

Bruttium.—A naked warrior. An eagle. The dioscurii.

Rhegium in Bruttium.—Apollo. A lion's head.

Caulonia in Bruttium.—A man holding a branch. A fawn.

Crotona in Bruttium.—A tripod.

Sybaris in Lucania.—A bull standing in repose.

Thurium in Lucania.—A bull butting.

Velia in Lucania.—A lion.

Posidonia in Lucania.—Neptune.

Heraclea in Lucania.—Hercules strangling the Nemean lion.

Metapontum in Lucania.—An ear of wheat.

Tarentum in Calabria.—Youth riding a dolphin. A cockle shell.

Neapolis in Campania.—The minotaur.

Cales in Campania.—A cock.

Populonia in Etruria.—A lion.

AFRICA.

Cyrene.—The silphium, a plant of the region.

Carthage.—A horse head and palm tree.

ISLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Sardinia.—Three ears of corn on one stalk.

Gaulos.—A tripod.

Melita in Melita.—A mythic figure with four wings.

Cydonia in Crete.—A wolf suckling a child.

Cnossus in Crete.—The labyrinth.

Gortyna in Crete.—Europa on the bull.

Leucadia.—The prow of a vessel.

Zacynthus.—Æsculapius on a rock, with a serpent.

ILLYRICUM.

Dyrrachium.—Gardens of Alcinous. Cow suckling her calf.

Appolonia.—Cow suckling her calf.

MACEDONIA.

Macedonia in general.—Head of Diana.

Amphipolis.—A torch in a kind of stand.

Lete.—Silenus or centaur carrying off a female.

Thessalonica.—A female standing.

Acanthus.—Fore part of a bull. Lion springing on a bull.

THRACE.

Byzantium.—A crescent and stars.

Cardia.—A heart. Fore part of a lion, etc.

Ænos.—A goat.

Maronea.—A bunch of grapes. Fore part of a horse.

Abdera.—A lyre. A griffon.

Mesembria.—A crescent.

(To be continued.)

AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

*Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.**(Continued.)*

The bent of Mr. Peale's genius towards mechanics was developed at a very early period. While quite young, he became distinguished as a manufacturer of all the usual apparatus for games, and many curious toys. As a school boy, he demonstrated a fondness for surveying as well as mechanics—in the interval of school hours surveying his father's farm, near Germantown, and developing also the water power of some neighboring streams.

At the age of seventeen, he entered the factory of Hodgson & Bro., on the Brandywine, Delaware, to learn machine making. From his industry, patience and neatness, he rose superior to his teachers. He became skilful as a turner and founder, and in the use of tools, and a very excellent draftsman. He there prepared the working drawings for the machines required for a cotton factory at Germantown, and had them constructed under his supervision, and in great part by his personal skill and labor. When barely nineteen, he left Delaware to take charge of the cotton factory just mentioned, of which he had the management for several years. He afterwards removed to Philadelphia, and entered into the establishment of John & Coleman Sellers, making machinery for card sticking.

Mr. Peale now separated himself for a time from the strict line of his profession, and entered upon the management of his father's Museum. For this duty he was well fitted, on account of his administrative abilities, his taste, and his talent for arrangement, as well as by a competent knowledge of the subjects to which it was devoted. The Museum was something more than a place of deposit for birds, beasts and fishes, but was a collection of curiosities in art, in mechanism and in antiquity. Mr. Peale, in the pursuit of his own profession, had not neglected other fields of knowledge. He was ever an ardent student and observer. It was not likely, therefore, that he was unlearned in any of the subjects which the Museum was intended to illustrate, and which he had heard freely discussed from his childhood. While not professing a particular fondness for natural history, he so far mastered the subject as to deliver lectures upon it, availing himself of the special facilities placed at his disposal. His mechanical genius, also, found room for display in adding to the curiosities of the establishment. Many of us will remember his curious speaking toy, besides other ingenious inventions which cannot now be specified.

It was while engaged at the Museum that Mr. Peale placed there a miniature locomotive, the first seen in this country, and manufactured by his friend M. W. Baldwin, on a plan agreed between Mr. Peale and himself. It was put in operation on a track making the circuit of the Arcade, in which the Museum then was, drawing two miniature cars, with seats for four passengers. The valuable aid of Mr. Peale was afterward given to Mr. Baldwin in the construction of the

locomotive for the Philadelphia and Germantown Railroad, in 1832, the success of which led to the establishment of Mr. Baldwin in the great business of his life.

Mr. Peale's position at the Museum was of advantage in bringing his peculiar and varied talents more conspicuously before the public. The establishment was largely visited, often by distinguished men of our own and other cities, and many learned to admire the ingenious young manager. His society and friendship were sought after, and he assumed his proper place as one of the select band then most active among us in the pursuit of science and art.

(To be continued.)

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

CANADA.

30. C. Obv.—Front view of Bank of Montreal, now occupied by Banque du Peuple. "PROVINCE OF CANADA BANK OF MONTREAL," Rev.—Same as No. 27. This coin is rare. This specimen is the only one we have met with, all the other coins bearing the same view of building being dated 1842.

31. C. Obv.—Same as No. 26, "UN SOU." Rev.—do., do. "HALF PENNY." There are also the three other varieties of this half penny, corresponding with Nos. 27, 28 and 29.

32. C. Obv.—"FRANCIS MULLINS & SON IMPORTERS OF SHIP CHANDLERY & MONTREAL." Rev.—Ship in full sail, to the right, "COMMERCE TOKEN." Milled edge.

33. C. Obv.—Two maple leaves crossed. "COMMERCE BAS CANADA." Rev.—Within a wreath, "UN SOU J. ROY MONTREAL." Scarce in good condition.

34. C. Obv.—Within a circle, a cask; above "BREWERS," below "DISTILLERS, &C., &C., &C." On either sides, "UN SOU." Without the circle, "TH^S & W^M MOLSON MONTREAL." Rev.—Within a circle, distillery apparatus, etc. "CASH PAID FOR ALL SORTS OF GRAIN 1837." Milled edge. Scarce.

35. C. Obv.—Same as No. 25, without the date. Rev.—"T. S. BROWN & CO IMPORTERS OF HARDWARE MONTREAL."

36. Obv.—A tea kettle between a vice and hand saw; above, a scythe blade and spade crossed; below, a knife and fork crossed. Rev.—"J. SHAW & CO IMPORTERS OF HARDWARES UPPER TOWN QUEBEC." Milled edge.

37. C. Obv.—Ship in full sail to right. "FOR PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION." Rev.—CANADA HALF PENNY TOKEN," in four lines.

38. C. Obv.—Boquet consisting of roses, thistle, shamrock and wheat. 1 rose and bud, 3 shamrocks, 5 rose leaves and 1 head of wheat to right. 2 thistles, 2 thistle leaves, 1 head of wheat and 2 shamrocks to left. Large thistle leaf in centre of boquet; the head

of wheat on right bends immediately over the rose; the whole bound with ribbon having bow to right and two ends to left. "AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE * BAS-CANADA * " Rev.—Wreath with nine leaves to right and eight to left; between each leaf a small sprig with berry similar to holly. "UN SOU" within wreath. "TOKEN MONTREAL." Edge plain.

39. C. Obv.—Boquet as No. 38. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 3 shamrocks and 1 head of wheat to right; 2 thistles, 3 shamrocks, 1 head wheat and 4 leaves (probably intended for maple leaves) to left, bound in ribbon, bow to left, ribbon to right. Inscription same as No. 38. Rev.—Wreath of 16 leaves, 8 on either side. Bow connecting them forms a triangle, heavy at the top but smaller towards wreath. Same inscription as No. 38. Over letter "o" in Sou is a small dot. Edge plain.

40. C. Obv.—Boquet. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 3 shamrocks, 1 blade of wheat to right; 2 thistle heads with blades of wheat between. 2 thistle leaves, 1 shamrock, 1 head and 2 blades wheat to left; a thistle leaf in centre, reaching two-thirds up boquet; on top a head of wheat slightly inclined to right. Same inscription as No. 38. Rev.—Same as No. 39. Bow somewhat heavier and no dot over the letter "o." Word "MONTREAL" almost touches bottom of wreath. Edge plain.

(To be continued.)

DIRECTIONS FOR FORMING CABINETS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN COINS AND MEDALS.

To which is added Dimensions and Cost of Cabinets of Various Sizes and the Best Known Methods of Preserving and Cleansing Coins.

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED. PREPARED BY E. M., JR.

(Continued.)

The conclusion to be drawn from the above arguments is, that, in cabinets of the second class, the collector may mingle the middle with the large brass, as he thinks proper; and in like manner the small with the middle; though it will not be so well to unite such disproportionate sizes as the large and small. In the small sequence, however, there can be no harm in his mixing gold, silver and brass, as chance or curiosity may lead him to purchase any of these metals. And though your starched bigotted medallist may sneer, because such a sequence would controvert his formal and narrow way of thinking, common sense would authorize us to laugh at the pedant in our turn, and to pronounce such a series more various, rich and interesting than if the collector had only arranged one metal and rejected a curious article because he did not collect gold or silver.

Pedantry, in most sciences, is now held in just contempt, but yet reigns in the medallic line in a supreme degree. Nor is it surprising, when it is considered that pedants themselves are the givers of their own silly laws; for, excepting perhaps half a dozen instances, books

upon this subject have only been written by men lost in the pedantry of numismatic erudition.

In like manner, if, in the modern part of the smaller cabinet, any coin of a series is of high price, or of bad impression, there can be no impropriety in putting another of the same reign, which is cheaper or better executed, though of a different denomination, and a little larger size. In short, the collector has no rules, but in the Greek cities and Roman families to observe alphabetical order and chronology in every thing else.

To assist a selection of a casket of medals no directions can be given, fancy being the only law. The arrangements may, however, be managed by the observations already made upon the two higher descriptions.

(To be continued.)

THE SECRETS OF THE TREASURY VAULT.

BY OLIVIA.

(Continued.)

The next article brought forth was a tin box. There was no way to ascertain whether the box was originally intended for pills or matches. There was every reason to believe that the original "Pandora's box" had been found. But, on opening it, there was discovered a sealed paper containing gems, thirteen small diamonds of the finest water and four large pearls. A small piece of paper in the box had written upon it this interesting bit of information: "These jewels had originally been presented to Martin Van Buren, but had been stolen from a case in the Patent Office on the night of November 8, 1848." These unfortunate gems convey a most useful lesson. If Mistress Van Buren had worn her jewels, instead of placing them where thieves break in and steal away, she would have set an illustrious example, and the country would have been no poorer than it is to-day.

The second box when opened contained counterfeit coins and dies. These had been deposited by M. C. Young, Esq., and they had been received from agents employed to detect counterfeiters. These bore the date of May 10, 1847. These relics were interesting to show how far in advance of their forefathers are the counterfeiters of to-day. Counterfeit greenbacks are made so perfect that it takes adepts employed purposely for the business to detect them, and they have to perform their work by the aid of the microscope. These counterfeit gold and silver coins could not deceive an infant of this generation.

The first package opened contained Confederate bills, bonds and small currency.

The second package were the spoils won by the United States in a lawsuit. This bundle of papers was found to consist of bonds received from Messrs. Redin and Fendall, per Henry May, amount \$96,276 33, being the same received by them from Corcoran & Riggs on decree in case of United States versus Gardiner. Bonds of the

State of Tennessee. Date of the oldest coupon due July 1, 1857. The Treasurer gave Mr. May a receipt herefor, and is directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to hold these bonds until he shall decide as to entries, etc. Dated April 9, 1855.

The third package was marked \$24,963. Upon examination, the mark and contents did not exactly coincide.

The fourth package contained bonds, loan of 1848, returned October 10, 1857, marked \$3000.

Next in order came a box containing notes of the survey of boundary between the United States and Mexico, under treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, from junction of Gila and Colorado, to Pacific coast, deposited by Brevet Captain Harcastle, United States Navy Topographical Engineers, June 11, 1852.

Fifth package, marked \$3,059 64. On the outside wrapper was written, "Received of A. Smith, Cashier of the Bank of the Metropolis, by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, the within uncurrent funds, which had been held by the said bank on special deposit, consisting of uncurrent bank notes."

(To be continued.)

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst-Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

A still cheaper material for Cameos has been found in glass. It is prepared by cementing together two layers of different colors. The figures are cut upon the glass in the same manner that all cut-glass ware is decorated. If done carefully they look extremely well.

But to revert to the Onyx itself—it is a stone known from the earliest times. The Bible calls it the "Stone of Stones," and in China it is said to be reserved for the Emperor exclusively.

The name of this stone is derived from a Greek word, identical in its spelling, signifying the finger-nail, a derivation which (if the word was then as now applied only to those specimens of calcedony formed of white and black streaks) would seem to indicate that this god-like race were accustomed to wear theirs in mourning!

In the Green Vault at Dresden is an Onyx valued on account of its clearness, and reckoned to be worth forty-eight thousand thalers. It is regarded as one of the principal curiosities in this collection. There is a very slight flaw in it, but the artists dared not cut it deeper, under the apprehension that, though they might thus make it a perfect gem, they might also make the original imperfection more perceptible. It is about three inches long and of nearly the same width.

Appianus says that Mithridates, King of Pontus, had two thousand cups made of this stone among his household treasures.

Both the Greeks and the Romans carried the Art of Cameo, as well as Intaglio, engraving to the highest pitch of perfection, and the Italians, as successors to the latter, are at the present day the most skilful cutters existing. Between the best antique and modern Cameos it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to tell the difference, and even the greatest connoisseurs are at fault.

The Apotheosis of Augustus is a celebrated historical Cameo, of very large diameter, comprising four layers, two white and two brown, which skilfully turned to account. It is not within our limits, however, to give individual descriptions of celebrated Cameos, as they exist in so great numbers.

It may be asked what peculiar force is contained in the word Cameo, when the expression, *relievo engraving*, seems to cover the whole ground. The answer is that the word Cameo, whatever may have been the origin of the word, implies now not only a figure in relief, but the ground upon which it rests is of a different color from the figure itself. A Medallion is in no case a Cameo, nor would an artificial coloring of any portion of it render it so. The diversity of tints of the Cameo, it is understood, must be natural, or at least an imitation of some natural production.

Intaglio is the term used to express an engraving sunk below the surface of the stone, as is required for a seal, in order to reproduce the subject in relief in impressions upon wax.

(To be continued.)

A REMARKABLE GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

A genuine "bone cave" has been found at last in America. Its locality is on the Reading railroad, near Phoenixville, Pa. Fortunately for science, the cave is on the estate of Mr. Wheatley, who is an excellent naturalist. Prof. Cope and he are now investigating its rich harvest of bones, among which are a mastodon's tusk eleven feet long, the bones of the great cave bear, those of a megalonyx (a gigantic sloth), those of a rhinoceros and those of a curious little horse. Great interest attaches to the inquiry whether this little horse that lived on the Atlantic border in pre-glacial time was indetical with the diminutive horse whose bones are found in the sunken lands of Nebraska, and whether this Pennsylvania sloth shall prove to be of the same kind as that whose bones Washington found in a nitre cave of Virginia. The Virginia sloth was supposed to be post-glacial. The bones in this Phoenixville cave are overlaid with glacial drift. We have examined in the Philadelphia Academy a section of the cave drawn by Prof. Cope. This section tells its own story. The animals whose remains are entombed in the cave, lived before the epoch of the great northern drift. In those remote times, America seems to have been the land of the horse, the rhinoceros, the elephant and the camel. If this horse should prove to be new, it will be the eighteenth species known to have lived in America before the drift period. We do not understand that any human remains or any implements fashioned by

human hands have been found in the Phoenixville cave. At this stage of the investigation, we cannot say that discovery throws any light on the question of the antiquity of the human race.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. M., Boston.—You may have a United States half cent of 1812—it is not improbable; but, somebody else has the other half, and the two pieces joined together would make a whole cent of 1812. The joke has been played on us before. The custom of cutting or breaking gold and silver coins is very ancient, and originated with the Athenians. A coin was divided in halves, one half retained by the native of Attica, the other given to the stranger whose acquaintance he had made. The bearer of the symbol, whether one of the original parties or only a friend, was entitled to all the rites of hospitality from the owner of the other half. In modern times, coins were cut by lovers as tokens of affection or engagement symbols, and this practice will, no doubt, account for the many odd halves of coin met with at the dealers' stores. These broken coins, "pledges of love," are frequently referred to in poem and story.

O. L. BOOTH, Canastota.—It is impossible for us to fill your orders when you neglect to put your name or locality to your letters. Three letters containing money received from you *unsigned*. We have refunded the eleven dollars at your request. Put the saddle on the right horse and all things will hereafter be serene.

P. R. L., Milwaukie.—The coins are not guaranteed genuine in the sale of the 3d, 4th and 5th. If you send bids to the auctioneer, you must take your chances. If sent to us *hereafter*, we will be responsible if the coins you buy should prove bogus, and refund the money. For this responsibility we charge ten per cent.

SUBSCRIBERS.—We cannot supply January number of this year. Subscriptions commence with February number.

T. R. M., Ravenna, O.—Having received bids from you on two occasions for public sales, and forwarded bills of purchases made by your order, we think our duty has been accomplished. When you forward amount of your last bill, sale of January 16 and 17, your duty will be partially performed.

R. P. & SON, Deersville.—Money received.

S. T., Vineland.—Sets of United States cents we sell for \$25. All prior to 1814 in ordinary condition, excepting 1793, 1799 and 1804, which are poor; 1816 to 1857, good. Better sets \$40 and \$50, and \$100 for a very good set.

REDEMPTION OF COINS.

The United States Mint, by a recent Act of Congress, redeem all the old copper cents and half cents, when presented in sums of twenty dollars. We would like all our readers to forward to this office, at our expense, all U. S. cents dating prior to 1814, for which we will pay a premium.

PROSPECTIVE COIN SALES.

Bangs, Merwin & Co., 694 Broadway, New York, will sell an English collection of foreign coins, numbering some 1758 lots, on the 3d, 4th and 5th insts. Full particulars of sale in next number. Catalogue of this sale priced for \$2, when forwarded to this office. A small sale of choice coins will come off at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s, on the 8th inst. A sale of ancient and modern gold, silver and copper coins will take place at Geo. A. Leavitt & Co.'s sales rooms, Astor Place, New York, on the 12th inst.

VALUE OF ANCIENT COINS.

Tetradrachms of Antiochus were sold at the Packer sale, in New York, for \$15; an Alexander brought \$10; a Ptolemy, \$13 50; a Roman aes or pound piece, \$10; other rare and fine Greek and Roman coins sold equally as high, an evidence of the increasing value of ancient coins.

PACKER SALE CATALOGUES.

Our charge for pricing the catalogues of the Packer coin sale has been fixed at \$3.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

FRANCE.—We hear from our Parisian correspondent that none of the numerous varieties of balloon-post envelopes, etc., are official; but were printed by private firms for public convenience; also that the 10 c., 20 c. and 40 c. of the republic, perforated, were the only ones struck off in Paris. We have seen several varieties of hue, etc., other than those yet chronicled; but think it will be confusing to note them until they can be regularly and finally classed. There would seem to be some modification in the postage from France; because a letter reached us bearing 24 centimes only, viz., a 20 c. of the Empire, and two of the 2 c. of a redder brown than usual. No more of the republics will be prepared till the exhaustion of the Imperial stock.

PORTUGAL.—In addition to the two values chronicled last month, are now issued a 10 reis, yellow, and a 50 r., green.

MEXICO.—M. Moens quotes the the current 50 centavos in black, on greenish-yellow paper, both, perforate and otherwise; also, a 2 reales, lilac, of Guadalajara, date 1868, on thick laid paper.

CASHMERE.—M. Moens also notes the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna of the 1866 on laid paper, in addition to that of 1867 previously known.

SPAIN.—M. Moens possesses copies of the 1855 1 real in pure green, not bluish, as usually seen. They are on satin paper, and bear the curled watermark.

VICTORIA.—The same authority gives one of the current four penny adhesives, undoubtedly imperforate, watermarked 4 in single lines.

AZORES.—We have seen a variety of the black 5 reis, now superseded, in thin letters of a medium size between those usually employed and the smallest. The color is puce.

LUXEMBOURG.—The Belgian magazine announces the suppression of the 37½ centimes, and that of the 2 c. and 30 c. on the exhaustion of the present stock; also, the preparation of a value or values above the highest now used in the Duchy, and proportionately larger.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—The *Timbre Post* chronicles a medio real, and an un real, salmon colored on pelure paper.—*Philatelist*.

POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTING.

One of the things I could and never can thoroughly understand is the passion that inspires some people in the collection of matters utterly worthless in themselves, and of no conceivable value as works of art or curiosity. For instance, the desire to gather together old postage stamps is singularly common. Within the past four or five years so many persons in this city have been bitten by this peculiar fancy that old postage stamps have become as rare, and almost as precious, as old gold. Those who hoard them up insert them with fastidious care in a volume prepared for the purpose, and exhibit them with an air of triumphant pride that is exhilarating to philosophy. They could not show off a row of marble-fronted warehouses on Broadway with a greater display of exultation. Some of them prefer to make a collection of all the postage stamps of *all* nations that indulge in such luxurious postal appliances, and then, of course, they *do* present a museum of some interest, for it involves a notion of the artistic and picturesque. But it cost much less to gather together an assortment of American postage stamps, and it is surprising what a fascination even children can find in such a pursuit! One would suppose that in accumulating these old stamps they were secretly amassing a fortune. Some of them, in fact, are so bewitched with the operation that they actually steal an old stamp to complete a collection of such curiosities, and a youth of the scarce and poetic name of Smith really *was* arrested here the other day for trying to pilfer some of these invaluable novelties! A Mr. Scott, in Nassau street, who is a retailer of such things, detected Smith in stealing ten dollars' worth while pretending a desire to purchase one dollar's worth, and the little rascal confessed that he was in habit of helping himself *sans ceremonie*, and could not avoid it. He was a victim of kleptomania, in the matter of stamps. The magistrate said he would stamp it out of him, and transferred him to the Tombs.

We copy the above article from Du Solle's New York correspondence to the *Philadelphia Sunday Dispatch*, March 26. Du Solle's understanding in reference to postage stamp collecting is very limited. This correspondent confines his appreciation of a collection of postal issues to the matter of their value as pieces of paper, and their utter want of value "as works of art or curiosity." We reply, for said correspondent's instruction, that certain postage stamps possess a marketable value similar to other articles of trade in fact, all genuine stamps, used or unused, have their price like all articles of commodity whose value is fixed by supply and demand. In reference to the merit and value of postage stamps as works of art and curiosity,

we feel constrained to believe that Du Solle has never had the pleasure to fix and feast his critical eyes upon a collection of these interesting, artistic and, in many cases, curious postal issues. For beauty of design and artistic skill, many of the postage stamps of Europe and America exhibit beauties and merits before which the works of some of our best manipulators of the pencil and brush, in other branches of the fine arts, pale, and whose superiority has been admitted by many of our best art critics. Curiosities in the postal line are so often remarked upon that we can only refer this correspondent to any dealer's store where he can gaze to the fill upon the stamps of Egypt, China, Moldavia, Cashmere, Turkey, Africa and others. We regret that this correspondence exhibits the fact for the first time that rogues have entered the ranks of the philatelic fraternity; although the temptation to a poor lad, to complete a series of stamps, by theft was great, and though it does not condone the crime it excites sympathy for the criminal whose offence might have been remedied by a recompense to the dealer and a reprimand, instead of branding the enthusiastic but misguided lad *a thief*, and making in all probability his future life one of misery and degradation.

POSTAGE STAMP ALBUMS.

An ingenious Philadelphia philatelist is about to apply for a patent for a mechanical postage stamp album, on the revolving plan, which has two advantages over the ordinary album—self securing or a new method of holding the stamps without gumming, and a new plan of exhibiting the stamps, novel if not useful.

NEW POSTAL STAMPS.

The seven cent U. S. postage stamps, referred to in preceding numbers of this journal, are in the hands of the Post-Master General, and will be ready for delivery early this month. These stamps are to be used exclusively between Germany and the United States—the postage on letters to and from Germany having been fixed at seven cents. A description of this novelty will be presented in a future number, a *promised* specimen not having arrived in season for this issue of the journal.

UNITED STATES PRIVATE PROPRIETARY STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(*Continued.*)

Jas. Eaton, Utica, N. Y., rect., 1 cent, black.

P. Eichele & Co., St. Louis, Mo., Matches, rect., 1 cent, blue.

Excelsior Water Proof Match, Baltimore, rect., 1 cent, blue.

Aug. Eichele & Co., St. Louis, Mo., Matches, rect., 1 cent, black.

E. R. T. Matches, rect., 1 cent, green.

Fetridge & Co., Balm of 1000 Flowers, New York, hexagonal, 2 cents, vermillion.

(*To be continued.*)

Colonial Paper Money.

Pennsylvania 3d, 4d, 9d, 18d, 1s, 2s; April 10, 1777; good; each,	\$ 12
Pennsylvania 4s, 6s, 8s; April 10, 1777; good; each,	15
Pennsylvania 12s, 16s, 20s; red notes; April 10, 1777; good; each,	15
Delaware 4s, 5s, 6s, 10s; clean; January 1, 1776; each,	25
New Jersey 18d; clean; December 31, 1763,	15
New Jersey 2s; red notes; clean; March 25, 1776,	20
New Jersey 3s; red notes; clean; March 25, 1776,	25
Maryland \$4; clean; March 1, 1770,	25
Maryland \$6; clean; March 1, 1770,	25
Maryland \$8; clean; March 1, 1774,	25

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Bank Notes.

25 Northern Local Notes, issued during the Civil War; all fine and different,	\$2 00
10 Northern Local Notes, issued during the Civil War; all fine and different,	1 00
Southern Notes, issued during the Civil War; 10 different issues; good condition,	1 00
Specimen Bank Notes, uncirculated; unsigned; 25 specimens; different,	2 00
Specimen Bank Notes; uncirculated; unsigned; 10 specimens; different,	1 00
Bank Note Sheets; engravers' designs, local scenes, medallions, etc.; 5 sheets,	1 00
Bank Note Sheet,	25

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Continental Paper Money.

Philadelphia Congress $\$ \frac{1}{6}$; February 17, 1776; good,	\$ 25
Philadelphia Congress $\$ \frac{1}{3}$; February 17, 1776; good,	25
Philadelphia Congress $\$ \frac{1}{2}$; February 17, 1776; good,	25
Philadelphia Congress $\$ \frac{2}{3}$; February 25, 1776; good,	25
Philadelphia Congress \$8, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$60, \$80; January 14, 1778; clean; each,	25c. to 35
7 Notes; same as last (set),	2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

New Postage Stamp Album.

American Album, bound in cloth, containing spaces for all stamps, and interleaved with blank pages for new issues. Price, postage paid, \$2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Priced Coin Catalogues.

Catalogues of any Large Cabinet of Coins sold during the past ten
years in the United States priced, to order, \$3 00
Small Priced Catalogues of any Sale, 1 50
For List of Priced Catalogues enelose stamp to

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Magazines for Sale.

Vol. 1 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, bound, . . \$5 00
Vol. 2 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, bound, . . 3 50
Vol. 3 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, unbound, . . 2 50
Vol. 4 Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, unbound, . . 2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Indian Stone Relics, &c.

25 Arrow Points, 20c. each ; lot, \$2 00
12 Arrow Points ; fine ; 20c. each ; lot, 2 00
Stone Axes, slightly imperfect, each, 20
Stone Axes, perfect, 1 00 to 2 00
Large Prints, highly eolored, of all the Indian Chiefs of Ameriea, 35

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Minerals.

25 different Specimens of interesting Minerals, \$2 00
50 different Specimens of interesting Minerals, 3 50
Large and handsome ; variegated agates ; each, 75

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Shells.

12 large Shells, various, \$3 00
25 small Shells, various, 1 25
150 smaller Shells, various, 2 00
500 smallest size Shells, various, 3 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

Flags of All Nations.

Large Sheet, richly colored, \$ 25
Flags and Portraits, Germany, large plate, just out, in eolors, . 50
Mason & Co.'s Coin Priced Catalogue, 25

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street.

COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700 ; good condition,	\$1 50
English Half Crowns ; old dates,	75
French Medals ; bronze ; proof,	75
Greek Silver Coins,	75
“ Brass “	50
Roman Silver Coins,	50
“ Brass “	15
California Gold Dollar, octagon or round,	1 75
“ Half Dollar, “	75
“ Quarter Dollar, octagon or round,	50
United States Mint Sets—Five, Three, Two and One Cent Pieces ; 1871 ; proofs,	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive ; 1871 ; proofs,	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different,	2 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different,	2 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

PROOF SETS FOR 1871.

Silver Dollar to One Cent Piece, inclusive ; 10 pieces ; brilliant proofs ; per set, \$4 50.

Small Proof Sets—Five Cents, Three Cents, Two Cents and One Cent ; per set, 25 cents. Postage free.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

FOREIGN COINS.

100 Common Coins, all different,	\$2 00.
100 Common Coins, in good condition,	3 00.
100 Selected Coins, in fine condition,	5 00.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

UNITED STATES PROOF SETS.

Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1859,	\$5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1860,	5 50.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1861 to 1869, each,	5 00.
Silver Proof Sets, one dollar to one cent, 1870,	4 50.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.


PRICED CATALOGUES OF FEWSMITH CABINET.

Owing to the scarcity of the catalogues of the New York sale of October 4, 5, 6 and 7, our terms are as follows :

Priced Catalogue,	\$5 00.
Unpriced Catalogue,	3 00.

Parties mailing their catalogues can have them priced for \$2.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

 Coin Price Current, now ready, containing a list of coins on sale, with price of each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.